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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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10 FEB 1993

IN REPLY REFER TO:
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RECEIVED

Honorable Jesse Helms
United States Senate
402 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

FEB 12 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Senator Helms:

This is in reply to your letter of January 22, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of your constituent, Fred Decker, regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Those rules have been in place for over 20 years. While they have been amended on numerous occasions since that time, they nonetheless embody regulatory concepts based on yesteryear's technology and, unless changed, will stifle the growth and development of private land mobile radio technology and services, which are used primarily by local governments, public safety entities, and businesses to enhance their productivity. The Commission issued the Notice, therefore, to solicit comment from all interested persons on a wide variety of proposals designed to increase channel capacity, to promote more efficient use of these channels, and to simplify the rules governing use of these channels.

The proposals in the Notice reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the Notice, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. To this end, some of the critical issues that must be resolved relate to channel spacing, the amount of time provided to users to convert to new technical standards, how the 300 to 500 percent increase in channel capacity should be licensed, how the rules should be written to provide users technical flexibility, and whether the current nineteen radio services should be consolidated and, if so, how. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the Notice that describes the numerous proposals.

Mr. Decker is specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

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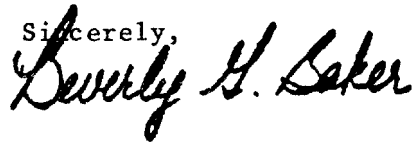
Honorable Jesse Helms

2.

We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take into careful consideration all their comments. Your constituent's concerns will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Comments on the proposals set forth in the Notice are due February 26, 1993, and Reply Comments are due April 14, 1993. We expect final rules to be issued near the end of 1993. We urge your constituent to file formal comments on all aspects of the proposals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Beverly H. Saker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ralph A. Haller
Chief, Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures:

Notice

Discussion paper

Incoming correspondence

Congressional

DUE: 2-10-93

PLEASE MAKE 2 EXTRA COPIES OF INCOMING, ATTACHMENTS,
AND REPLY FOR DOCKET FILE, ROOM 222.

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM
02/02/93

LETTER REPORT

| CONTROL NO. | DATE RECEIVED | DATE OF CORRESP | DATE DUE | DATE DUE OLA(857) |
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| 9300353 | 02/02/93 | 01/22/93 | 02/15/93 | |

| TITLE | MEMBERS NAME | REPLY FOR SIG OF |
|---------|--------------|------------------|
| Senator | Jesse Helms | BC |

| CONSTITUENT'S NAME | SUBJECT |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Fred Decker | inq. comments on PR Docket 92-235 |

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REMARKS: Respond to the attention of Wayne Boyles.

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United States Senate

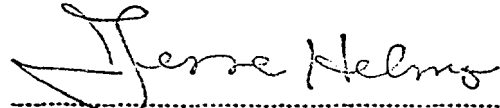
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January 22, 1993

Respectfully referred to:

Linda Townsend Solheim
Director, Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
Room 808
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

Because of the desire of this office to be
responsive to all inquiries and communications,
your consideration of the attached is
requested. Your findings and views, in
duplicate form, along with return of the
enclosure, will be appreciated by


U.S.S.

Form #2

Direct to the attention of:
Wayne Boyles
Office of Senator Jesse Helms
402 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6342

The Honorable Jesse Helms
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RECEIVED
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January 12, 1993

RE: NPRM - PR Docket 92-235, Frequency Restructuring

Dear Senator Helms,

I wish to express my opposition to proposed massive restructuring of the radio frequency spectrum proposed by the FCC in this docket. I represent just one of thousands of Radio controlled model enthusiasts in my area and am active in two clubs here in Raleigh. I personally own over \$1500 worth of equipment that would be rendered useless by this proposition. I am also fearful that if passed as is, this could destroy the R/C hobby and the industry by rendering the entire band unusable for radio control. I am also concerned about the possibility of airplanes and helicopters losing control and hurting or killing someone.

My specific objections are as follows:

We just changed all of our radios and frequencies last year! We paid to have the tolerances of our equipment tightened to their limit. We can't do it again. The tolerances are already 3 one hundred thousandths of a percent of the 72mhz frequency!

Financially, the economic impact to each hobbyist, hobby stores, and the R/C industry would be devastating. Our individual investments will be rendered worthless, and if we try to fly, we risk crashing and losing even more. Lost model sales would hurt a several billion dollar industry which also supports commercial photography and science who use the models to do aerial work less expensively than hiring a plane and pilot.

The proposal would allow transmitters almost four times more powerful than ours, with no proper separation or tolerance between frequencies, to operate MOBILE! This would create total unpredictability as to when and where interference would strike. This will also hurt the people who would use these proposed new frequencies. We would be stepping all over each other.

Interference on communications bands is very annoying, but interference on a frequency that is controlling a device remotely will cause the destruction of that device, and possibly damage property and/or hurt someone.

Public safety will be compromised. These models are between 5 and 50 pounds and operate at speeds in excess of 75mph. They have spinning blades that can do serious damage. Usually

operated in parks, schoolyards and other public places, this interference will cause the models to crash, possibly into houses, schools, and groups of bystanders. The liability issues are staggering.

If you cannot prevent this proposal from destroying the band, then I would like to offer this compromise:

Allow only one frequency in between some of the existing frequencies instead of two in order to increase the separation.

Disallow mobile use of these frequencies.

Reduce the power of these devices to the same level as the existing transmitters.

Force very stringent frequency tolerances to make sure that the new transmitters cannot bleed over into our frequencies. Allow them to be off frequency by no more than 1KHZ.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter. I appreciate your representation on all of the issues on behalf of all of us; the folks back home! Good luck in Washington this year and God bless.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred Decker".

Fred Decker
121 Adventure Trail
Cary, NC 27513
(919)881-9497 W
(919)481-2238 H